

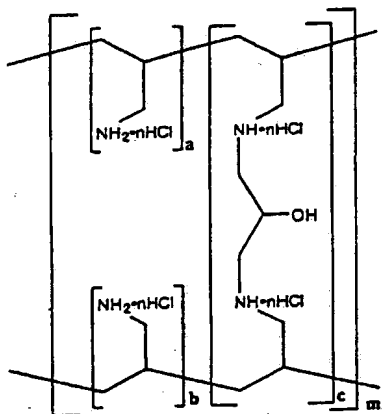
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): ~~A phosphate~~Phosphate-binding polymer particles of the formula:



wherein the molar ratio of $(a + b)$ to c is from 45:1 to 2:1 and m is an integer, and which phosphate-binding polymer has a true specific gravity of 1.2-1.22.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The phosphate-binding polymer particles according to claim 29 wherein the molar ratio of $(a + b):c$ is from 20:1 to 4:1.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A tablet comprising particles of a phosphate-binding polymer having an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at

least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 500 microns, and having a true specific gravity of 1.20-1.22 and a water content of 1-14%.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 31 wherein said particles of a phosphate-binding polymer have an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300 microns.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 31 which further contains at least one of crystalline cellulose and low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The tablet according to claim 33 wherein the content of the crystalline cellulose or low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose is at least 10 wt% of the weight of the phosphate-binding polymer particles

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 33 wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0-16.0 wt% substitution by hydroxypropoxyl groups.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The tablet according to any of claims 31-35 wherein the phosphate-binding polymer particles are ~~is one that is~~ obtained by allowing epichlorohydrin to act on polyallylamine in a

water/acetonitrile mixed solvent system so that the polyallylamine is crosslinked.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 31 wherein further contains a hardened oil.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 31 which is coated on the surface with a water-soluble film base.

Claim 39 ((Previously Presented): A process for producing a phosphate-binding polymer tablets comprising:

grinding a phosphate-binding polymer having a true specific gravity of 1.20-1.22 into particles having an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 500 microns, said phosphate-binding polymer being either polyallylamine or obtained by crosslinking the same;

b. Adjusting the phosphate-binding polymer particles to a water content of 1-14%;

c. Mixing the particles with at least one of crystalline cellulose and low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose; and

d. Compressing the mixture into tablets.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 39 wherein said phosphate-binding polymer is ground into particles having an average particle size of no

more than 250 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300 microns.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A tablet comprising the phosphate-binding polymer particles of claim 29.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The tablet according to claim 40 wherein the polymer ~~has~~ particles have an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at least 90% of the particles no larger than 500 microns, and with a water content of 1-14%.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The tablet according to claim 41 wherein the polymer ~~has~~ particles have an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% of the particles no larger than 300 microns.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 40 which further contains a component selected from the group consisting of crystalline cellulose, low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 44 wherein the content of the component is at least 10% of the weight of the phosphate-binding polymer.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 44 wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0-16.0 weight % substitution by hydroxy groups.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 40 which further contains a hardened oil.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 40 which is coated with a water-soluble film base.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The tablet according to claim 40 wherein the phosphate-binding polymer ~~is one that~~ is particles are obtained by allowing epichlorohydrin to act on polyallylamine in a water/acetonitrile mixed solvent system so that the polyallylamine is crosslinked.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The phosphate-binding polymer particles according to claim 29 which ~~has~~ have an average particle size of no more than 400 microns with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 500 microns, and a water content of 1-14%.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): The phosphate-binding polymer particles according to claim 49 which ~~has~~ have an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300 microns.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): The phosphate-binding polymer particles according to claim 29 which ~~is~~ comprise a polymer obtained by allowing epichlorohydrin to act on

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polyallylamine in a water/acetonitrile mixed solvent system to
that the polyallylamine is crosslinked.